

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-B019  
**TITLE:** Recognition of Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE)  
**PROPOSER:** The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane  
**COMMITTEE:** 08 - World Mission: HD

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A137 On the Topic of Appointing a Task Force for Baptismal Equality (Rejected)  
2006-A141 On the Topic of Fostering Deliberation on Difficult Issues (Rejected)  
2006-D022 Establish the Millennium Development Goals as a Mission Priority  
2006-D024 Support Equal Participation of Women and Men on Committees and Commissions  
2003-A026 Direct Executive Council to Appoint a Task Force on Baptismal Parity  
2003-A029 Commit to Open Dialogue on Difficult Issues Facing the Church and Society  
2003-D006 Endorse UN Millennium Development Goals  
1997-A051 Remind Convention Bodies to Be Attentive to Inclusion and Discrimination  
1991-A085 Instruct Interim Bodies to Examine Effects of Forms of Discrimination  
1991-A091 Endorse United Nations' Statement on Discrimination Against Women  
1988-A074 Request a Balance of Women and Men on Appointed Church Bodies  
1985-D027 Appoint a Group to Study the Participation of Women in Church Life  
1976-D029 Promote Programs Concerning Discrimination Against Women in the Church

**Indirectly Related:**

1997-A053 Implement Mandatory Rights of Women Clergy under Canon Law  
1994-B035 Give Thanks for Witness of the Episcopal Church Women  
1991-A057 Support the WCC's "Ecumenical Decade: Church in Solidarity with Women"  
1988-A077 Request the Presiding Bishop to Appoint a Committee on the Status of Women  
1988-A078 Commend the Full Participation of Women to the Lambeth Conference  
1988-A079 Endorse the "Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity With Women"

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A137  
**Title:** On the Topic of Appointing a Task Force for Baptismal Equality  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of the Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 75th General Convention commit itself to baptismal equality for members of all ages; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention direct the Executive Council to appoint a Task Force for interpreting our biblical and theological language and heritage about God and people in ways that include all those created in God's image; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force will offer guidelines to assure linguistic visibility in the everyday worship, music, education, preaching, written materials, and clip art used at the congregational, diocesan and national levels of The Episcopal Church such as many Protestant denominations already have; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force include theologians, members of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, the Committee on the Status of Women, the House of Bishops' Theology Committee, the Executive Council Anti-Racism Committee, and the Office of Communications; and be further

*Resolved*, That the Task Force publish by 2009 those principles and guidelines with recommendations for introducing them to congregations, The Episcopal Church Center, church-related organizations, staff and media; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Baptismal equality is understood as the welcoming of all baptized persons into the Body of Christ, where all are included equally, and the grace and gifts bestowed by God in this sacrament are recognized and fully utilized; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$38,000 for two meetings of the Task Force and \$2,000 for publication of the principles and guidelines.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A141  
**Title:** On the Topic of Fostering Deliberation on Difficult Issues  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commit itself to foster ~~moral-deliberation~~ *dialogue* on social and theological questions, seeking to be a community where open, passionate, and respectful deliberation of challenging, contemporary issues is expected and encouraged; engage those of diverse classes, genders, ages, races, disabilities, *and sexual orientation, engaging* cultures and perspectives in the ~~deliberation~~ process so that our limited horizons might be expanded and our witness in the world enhanced; address the issues faced by the people of God, in order to equip them for their discipleship and citizenship in the world; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention direct the Peace and Justice Ministries Office, Ethnic Congregation Development Office, and Women's Ministries Office to collaborate in developing models, *drawing on moral and theological resources*, and trainers, lay and ordained, across the Church to guide conversations on difficult issues facing our country and church today *in order to participate in the reconciling work of Christ*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$28,000 be allocated *to the Office of Women's Ministries* for this work, including \$6,000 for planning the process and printing materials, \$20,000 to bring trainers from dioceses and provinces together to learn the process and \$2,000 to sustain the process.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-D022  
**Title:** Establish the Millennium Development Goals as a Mission Priority  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend the leaders and members of The Episcopal Church, including Episcopal Relief and Development and program ministries of The Episcopal Church, for their leadership on behalf of the Millennium Development Goals, both through public advocacy and implementation of MDG programs in the developing world; and commend parishes, missions, congregations, and dioceses, and others, like Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation and the Micah Challenge, for their support of the implementation of the MDGs in fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant and as an expression of the hunger of this Church for far deeper communion with all of God's beloved; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention establish the work toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as a mission priority for the coming triennium, and that each diocese, congregation, and parishioner be urged to commit to 0.7% giving toward these goals by July 7, 2007 (07/07/07); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget line item of no less than an additional 0.7% (circa \$900,000) of the non-government revenue of The Episcopal Church for work that supports the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:*

1. **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
2. **Achieve universal primary education**
3. **Promote gender equality and empower women**
4. **Reduce child mortality**
5. **Improve maternal health**
6. **Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
7. **Ensure environmental sustainability, and**
8. **Create a global partnership for development with a focus on debt, aid, and trade.**

*And be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage parishes, missions, congregations, and dioceses to designate the Last Sunday after Pentecost, or such days as may be designated ecumenically for commendation of the MDGs, as special days of prayer, fasting, and giving in The Episcopal Church toward global reconciliation and the Millennium Development Goals; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request that all dioceses establish a global reconciliation commission or similar body dedicated to mobilizing Episcopalians toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns report to the 76th General Convention on the progress that has been achieved in implementing this resolution; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention endorse "The ONE Campaign," the U.S. movement for the MDGs, through The Episcopal Church's "ONE Episcopalian" campaign; call on all parishes, missions, congregations, dioceses, and individuals to join the ONE Episcopalian campaign; and publicly endorse*

**The ONE Campaign's call for the United States government to annually spend an additional one percent of its budget to combat global poverty, and to be active advocates for the achievement of this work.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 522-524.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-D024  
**Title:** Support Equal Participation of Women and Men on Committees and Commissions  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church endorse, ratify, and implement Resolution 13/31 adopted by the Anglican Consultative Council at its meeting in Nottingham, England in June 2005, stating that there should be equal participation of women and men on all decision-making bodies of the Anglican Consultative Council and that all Provinces of the Communion should work to achieve that goal; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the General Convention urge and encourage all provinces, dioceses, and congregations of The Episcopal Church to work toward the same goal of equal participation of women and men on all their decision-making committees, commissions, agencies, and boards; and be it further***

***Resolved, That a reporting mechanism be developed in order to record the achievement of such gender equality, reporting those achievements annually to the Executive Council and to the 76th General Convention.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 661.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A026  
**Title:** Direct Executive Council to Appoint a Task Force on Baptismal Parity  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention commit itself to using language and visual images that reflect the diversity of age, sex, ethnicity, disability, and race among the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention direct the Executive Council to appoint a task force to (1) explore ways to include all who are created in God's image in our use of biblical and theological language and our use of visual images; (2) create guidelines that assure inclusion of persons of both sexes, and all ages, ethnicities and races; and (3) encourage incorporation of these guidelines in the everyday worship, music, education, preaching, written materials, and visual art used at the congregational, diocesan, and national levels of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the task force include theologians, members of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, the Committee on the Status of Women, the House of Bishops Theology Committee, representatives of the ethnic desks, and the Episcopal News Service; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$35,500 (\$34,000 for two meetings of the Task Force and \$1,500 for communication of these guidelines) for implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 182.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A029  
**Title:** Commit to Open Dialogue on Difficult Issues Facing the Church and Society  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commit itself to foster moral deliberation on social questions, seeking to be a community where open, passionate, and respectful deliberation of challenging, contemporary issues is expected and encouraged; engage those of diverse classes, genders, ages, races, disabilities, engaging cultures, sexual orientation, and perspectives so that our limited horizons might be expanded and our witness in the world enhanced; address the issues faced by the people of God, in order to equip them for their discipleship and citizenship in the world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That in addition to the curricula identified and developed in accordance with Resolution A009 of the 73rd General Convention which provide guided conversation around sexual orientation, in particular "Room for Grace Dialogue", the 74th General Convention direct the Peace and Justice Ministries Office and Ethnic and Women's Ministries and, where appropriate, the Committee on Anti-Racism of the Executive Council and other groups to collaborate in further developing models and trainers, lay and ordained, to guide conversations on difficult issues facing our church and societies today and to promulgate their use; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$28,000 for implementation of this resolution, including \$6,000 for planning the process and printing materials, \$20,000 to bring trainers from dioceses and provinces together to learn the process and \$2,000 to sustain the process.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 630f.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-D006  
**Title:** Endorse UN Millennium Development Goals  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 74th General Convention endorse and embrace the achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that pledge to:***

1. **eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;**
2. **achieve universal primary education;**
3. **promote gender equality and empower women;**
4. **reduce child mortality;**
5. **improve maternal health;**
6. **combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;**
7. **ensure environmental stability; and**
8. **develop a global partnership for development; and be it further**

***Resolved, That the Convention, recognizing that funding for nutritional, education, health care, and development programs is essential to achieve not only the MDGs, but also for recognizing the dignity of all human beings, reaffirm the 73rd General Convention's Resolutions A001 and D033 challenging all dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international development programs; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the appropriate offices and staff of the Episcopal Church Center, in cooperation with Episcopal Relief and Development, promote among dioceses and congregations education about and participation in the 0.7% contribution for international development; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the Executive Council be directed to fulfill the 73rd General Convention's Resolution D033 requiring the Council to develop a process for an annual accounting of each diocese's progress toward living into the 0.7% contribution goal; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the Executive Council in cooperation with the Communications Office at the Episcopal Church Center publish annually the annual accounting of all dioceses' level of participation in the 0.7% contribution goal; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice present a full report to the 75th General Convention of the level of participation of all dioceses in the call to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international development programs; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the United States government, as one of the 191 national signatories to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, be encouraged to provide appropriate leadership and resources toward international efforts to implement these and other internationally agreed development goals and that the Episcopal Office of Government Relations actively advocate that the United States government fulfill its commitment to funding international development aid at 0.7% of the U.S. Gross National Product (GNP); and be it further***

***Resolved, That all Episcopalians contact their elected representatives, urging them to support the United States government's fulfillment of its commitment to funding international development aid at 0.7% of the U.S. GNP.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 265f.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A051  
**Title:** Remind Convention Bodies to Be Attentive to Inclusion and Discrimination  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, In the absence of anti-sexism training during the last triennium, that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies remind the chairs of all boards, agencies, committees, commissions and interim bodies that the 1991 General Convention asked them to be "attentive to issues of inclusion affecting their members and the content of their deliberations, to devote meeting time at the beginning of each triennium to an exploration of how racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination may limit their work."*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 130.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A085  
**Title:** Instruct Interim Bodies to Examine Effects of Forms of Discrimination  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies instruct the chairs of all boards, agencies, committees, commissions and other interim bodies of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be attentive to issues of inclusion affecting their members and the content of their deliberations, to devote meeting time at the beginning of each triennium to an exploration of how racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination based on "difference" may limit their work, and to report results to the Executive Council.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 301.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A091  
**Title:** Endorse United Nations' Statement on Discrimination Against Women  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 70th General Convention supports the Executive Council's endorsement of the United Nations "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women" adopted in 1979;** and be it further  
*Resolved*, **That this Convention deplores the continued failure of the United States Congress to ratify this simple statement of the humanity of women;** and be it further  
*Resolved*, **That the Presiding Bishop is hereby requested to communicate this concern directly to the President of the United States and the Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and to instruct the Washington Office of this Church to include ratification of the Convention among its priorities and to report annually on the status of this matter to the Executive Council via the Committee on the Status of Women.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 214.



**Resolution Number:** 1988-A074  
**Title:** Request a Balance of Women and Men on Appointed Church Bodies  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, **That this 69th General Convention request the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to strive to achieve a balance of women and men appointed to all interim bodies, committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the Church so that the demographics of the worshipping community will be reflected in those appointed bodies; and be it further**

*Resolved*, **That bishops, clergy, and appointing officers in dioceses and congregations be requested to work toward a similar balance of women and men appointed to local and diocesan church bodies, so that women's gifts for leadership may be raised up within the whole Church alongside those of men.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 705.



**Resolution Number:** 1985-D027  
**Title:** Appoint a Group to Study the Participation of Women in Church Life  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That this 68th General Convention request the Presiding Bishop to implement the Executive Council's recommendation to appoint a broadly representative group from across the Church to study women's participation in congregational, diocesan, provincial, and national Church bodies and to review, evaluate, plan and propose policy on women's full participation in the life of this Church, taking into consideration the study being made by the Triennial Committee and availing itself of information from the Council for Women's Ministries and other agencies of this Church, the Anglican Communion, and ecumenical bodies concerned with women's ministries.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 269.



**Resolution Number:** 1976-D029  
**Title:** Promote Programs Concerning Discrimination Against Women in the Church  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 65th General Convention affirms Christ's teaching of full humanity and new life for all by urging that the Executive Council promote through its office of Christian Education and its Lay Ministries Task Force on Women programs that deal with the Church's past role in the discrimination against women, the Church's present anxiety about changing social roles resulting from the emergence of women and the necessity of future action by the Church in the liberation of both men and women**, and be it further

*Resolved*, **That this 65th General Convention commends appropriate study and action by individual members through their several congregations and dioceses.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-111.

TOPIC/TITLE: Women: Recognition of Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE)

PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The  
2 Episcopal Church recognize and affirm the advocacy and work of Anglican Women's  
3 Empowerment as an integral part of the mission, ministry and outreach of The Episcopal  
4 Church, and be it further

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6 *Resolved*, That the mission and ministry of Anglican Women's Empowerment be  
7 continued as an outreach initiative of the Episcopal Church to the Anglican Communion.  
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**EXPLANATION:**

Anglican Women's Empowerment brings together women from the Provinces of the Anglican Communion to the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. These women actively support and affirm the work of the United Nations, the Anglican Communion and the initiatives of the Anglican Consultative Council regarding the equal participation of women in the councils of the Church. Anglican Women's Empowerment assists in the nurturing and empowerment of adult women and young girls in accordance with Millennium Development Goal 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women) while at the same time addressing all of the MDGs, as every one impacts women and reflects the broader mission of the church.No General Convention funding is required to support this work and resolution

**BALLOT RESULTS:**

*Endorser(s):*The Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith, The Rt. Rev. Catherine S. Roskam